

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 970**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Fong**

February 18, 2011

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~~An act to amend Section 69435 of the Education Code, relating to~~  
*An act relating to student financial aid.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 970, as amended, Fong. ~~Cal Grant B awards; award amount.~~  
*Student financial aid: report.*

*Existing law establishes various student financial aid programs under the administration of the Student Aid Commission, and establishes eligibility requirements for the receipt of awards under those programs for participating students attending qualifying institutions.*

*This bill would require the commission, no later than July 31, 2012, to provide a report to the Legislature that details the policies and interactions between various state and federal financial aid programs, including the interaction between systemwide and campus-based student fees, institutional financial aid at the University of California and the California State University, Cal Grants, and federal financial aid programs.*

~~Existing law, known as the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program, establishes the Cal Grant B Entitlement Awards under the administration of the Student Aid Commission, and establishes eligibility requirements for awards under these programs for participating students attending qualifying institutions. The act requires that the award be used only for tuition, student fees, and access costs in a for-credit instructional program that is not less than one academic~~

year in length. Access grants are awarded in a student's first academic year. The act provides that not more than 2% of new Cal Grant B recipients be eligible for payments for tuition or fees, or both, in their first academic year of attendance.

This bill, during the 2012–13 academic year, would increase the percentage of new Cal Grant B recipients eligible for payments for tuition or fees, or both, in their first academic year of attendance to 25%. The bill would increase this percentage to 50% for the 2013–14 academic year, and to 75% for the 2014–2015 academic year. The bill would also provide that commencing with the 2015–16 academic year, all new Cal Grant B recipients enrolling for the first time in an institution of postsecondary education would be eligible for payments for tuition or fees, or both, during their first academic year.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1     SECTION 1. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that
- 2     financially needy students be able to access public colleges and
- 3     universities.
- 4     (b) No later than July 31, 2012, the Student Aid Commission
- 5     shall provide a report to the Legislature that details the policies
- 6     and interactions between the various state and federal financial
- 7     aid programs, including the interaction between systemwide and
- 8     campus-based student fees, institutional financial aid at the
- 9     University of California and the California State University, Cal
- 10    Grants, and federal financial aid programs.
- 11    (c) A report submitted pursuant to subdivision (b) shall be
- 12    submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
- 13    Code.
- 14    (d) This section is inoperative on January 1, 2016, pursuant to
- 15    Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.
- 16    SECTION 1. ~~Section 69435 of the Education Code is amended~~
- 17    ~~to read:~~
- 18    ~~69435. (a) (1) A Cal Grant B award shall be used only for~~
- 19    ~~tuition, student fees, and access costs in a for-credit instructional~~
- 20    ~~program that is not less than one academic year in length.~~
- 21    ~~(2) The commission, or a qualifying institution pursuant to~~
- 22    ~~Article 8 (commencing with Section 69450), shall award access~~

1 grants in a student's first academic year. In subsequent years, the  
2 award shall include an additional amount to pay tuition or fees, or  
3 both, to attend college at a public or private four-year college or  
4 university or other qualifying institution for all Cal Grant B awards  
5 pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 66021.2.  
6 In no event shall the total award in any year exceed the applicant's  
7 calculated financial need.

8 (3) (A) During the 2012–13 academic year, not more than 25  
9 percent of new Cal Grant B recipients enrolling for the first time  
10 in an institution of postsecondary education shall be eligible for  
11 payments for tuition or fees, or both, in their first academic year  
12 of attendance.

13 (B) During the 2013–14 academic year, not more than 50 percent  
14 of new Cal Grant B recipients enrolling for the first time in an  
15 institution of postsecondary education shall be eligible for  
16 payments for tuition or fees, or both, in their first academic year  
17 of attendance.

18 (C) During the 2014–15 academic year, not more than 75 percent  
19 of new Cal Grant B recipients enrolling for the first time in an  
20 institution of postsecondary education shall be eligible for  
21 payments for tuition or fees, or both, in their first academic year  
22 of attendance.

23 (D) Commencing with the 2015–16 academic year, all new Cal  
24 Grant B recipients enrolling for the first time in an institution of  
25 postsecondary education shall be eligible for payment for tuition  
26 or fees, or both, in their first academic year of attendance.

27 (E) The commission shall adopt regulations specifying the  
28 criteria used to determine which applicants, if any, receive both  
29 tuition and fees plus the access grant in the first year of enrollment.  
30 Priority shall be given to students with the lowest expected family  
31 contribution pursuant to Section 69432.7 and the highest level of  
32 academic merit.

33 (b) An award for access costs under this article shall be in an  
34 annual amount not to exceed one thousand five hundred fifty-one  
35 dollars (\$1,551). This amount may be adjusted in the annual Budget  
36 Act.